

January 12, 1976

SENATOR DICKINSON: I'm next on the board.

SENATOR SYAS: Alright.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'll check it out, Senator Syas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. My concerns and questions are in the same area. To get right in to what Senator Schmit and Senator Syas are talking about, if you read the second paragraph of the handout from the Game Commission through Senator Kremer this morning, it says specifically "exempt from the permit requirement under provisions of LB 343", which is what we're discussing, "are bona fide ranchers, farmers and their immediate family while hunting on lands that they own or lease, and are directly connected and contiguous with the land upon which the farmer or rancher actually resides". Land operators in this category would still need a permit for game birds, etc. This specifically states, and we're all aware that in this day and age when it's a little more difficult to make a living out of the land then it used to be then we all spread ourselves a little thinner and we operate land that is not contiguous to where we live. So according to this, as I read it, I couldn't go over to a farm five miles from my home in the same county, Senator Syas, and shoot pigeons or coons that are breaking the windows out of the corn crib, or whatever, without a permit for myself or my immediate family.

I would have strong objections to this on that basis.

To deviate a little bit, what you've been doing ... so I will too. I just ran down to my office and got a letter. I hope Senator Carsten's is here because this is from his constituent. In regard to the deer hunting permits ... it isn't as liberal as you'd think, Senator Syas, yet, even though I was interested last year in some legislation. This man ... and I quote... "This is my problem, I live in Burr, Nebraska but my land is 15 miles Northwest of Burr. I have this land... My son operates this land. He lives four miles North of Burr. I help him get the crops in and help him harvest the crops and pay my share of the expenses and pay social security taxes on my earnings", which indicates he is a self-employed person and an operator. "The way the law reads neither I nor my son can get a limited deer permit to hunt on my land". He goes on to ask if there's any way the Game Commission can rectify this. I've talked to Bill Bailey and, in this case .... You mentioned that the laws are rather liberal for owners-operators. In this case you have a legitimate owner-operator, father-son, and neither one of them can get a deer permit on their own land. It isn't as liberal as you might believe.